Met Office

November 2008

The averaging period used for the following assessment was 1961-1990.

UK overview

Maximum temperatures generally close to or slightly above average across the UK. Minimum temperatures generally around 1.0 °C above average but close to average across much of Scotland. Rainfall ranging from around 150% of average across parts of central and eastern England to 50% of average across parts of eastern Scotland. Sunshine ranging from over 130% of average across parts of eastern Scotland to less than 70% across parts of north-west Scotland and south-east England.

Ness Gardens (Cheshire) recorded a maximum temperature of 16.1 °C on 15th. Braemar (Aberdeenshire) recorded a minimum temperature of -12.1 °C on 30th. Achfary (Surland) recorded 75.6 mm of rainfall on 13th. Craibstone (Aberdeenshire) recorded 15 cm of lying snow at 0900 UTC on 23rd. A wind gust of 89 mph was recorded at Needles Old Battery (Isle of Wight) on 9th.

England diary of highlights

Mostly mild at first, but turning much colder later with some snowfall, especially in the east, and sharp frosts. Rainfall and sunshine close to average.

1st to 6th: Unsettled across most areas for the start of the month. Low pressure to the south-east of the UK was slow moving, drifting only slowly north through the first week. This led to areas of rain or showers moving in from the east across England, heavy at times, especially on the 1st and 2nd, with 20 to 30 mm of rainfall recorded in eastern areas on the 1st. Winds were generally from the east through this period, bringing a good deal of low cloud and drizzle but, when cloud did break, it became mild by day, with the temperature reaching 14.8 °C at Marham (Norfolk) on the 4th.

7th to 11th: There was a change to an Atlantic influence, with periods of rain and showers sweeping in from the west, often heavy and often accompanied by strong winds or gales, even severe gales at times. Gusts in excess of 50 m.p.h. were recorded in many areas as rain cleared through on the 8th. During the 9th, there were reports of tree and property damage in Lincolnshire after a line of heavy, squally showers and thunderstorms had moved east across central and southern England. However, despite the often wet and windy weather, temperatures fared well through this period, reaching 14.9 °C at Eastbourne (Sussex) on the 9th.

12th to 16th: After a brief mainly dry interlude on the 12th, further rain spread in from the west on the 13th. At the same time, high pressure was building from the south-west and the rain became lighter and confined to west-facing hills for much of the period. There was a good deal of low cloud but also brighter spells, especially east of high ground, and temperatures both by day and night were mild with East Bergholt (Suffolk) recording a temperature of 16.0 °C on the 14th and Ness Gardens (Cheshire) 16.1°C on the 15th. During the 16th, these conditions continued across southern counties but a colder, clearer northerly set in across the north.

17th to 20th: Large amounts of cloud across England, giving a little light rain or drizzle at times. Also a good deal of dry weather with bright or sunny intervals developing, lifting temperatures to the very mild category at times, with Teignmouth (Devon) recording a temperature of 15.9 °C on the 19th.

21st to 24th: A marked change too much colder conditions, with northerly winds spreading increasingly-wintry showers across many eastern areas during the 21st to 23rd. Lying snow reported in many eastern areas on the

23rd, with Copley (County Durham) recording 5 cm at 0900 UTC. The showers in the west were mostly of rain with temperatures nearer normal. However, there was also a good deal of sunshine in places, especially in central areas. Particularly cold and windy on the 24th, with gusts to 50 m.p.h. in exposed areas to the north.

25th to 30th: A brief respite from the cold conditions on 25th and 26th as showers died away for a time with a milder north-westerly flow. However, the rest of the month was unsettled with further rain or showers, these turning to sleet and snow at times by the end of the month as winds eased. On the 29th, dense freezing fog was widespread, lingering all day in parts of the Midlands and northern England. Some areas recorded maximum temperatures below freezing on the 29th and 30th, with Warcop (Cumbria) recording a maximum temperature of -3.0 °C on the 30th. Sharp frosts on the 28th, 29th and 30th, with Shap (Cumbria) recording a minimum temperature of -8.9 °C on the 30th.

Wales diary of highlights

Mostly mild at first, but turning much colder later with some sharp frosts. Rainfall and sunshine close to average.

1st to 6th: A cold start to the month, with a minimum of -3.1 °C at Trawsgoed (Ceredigion) on the 1st. Mainly dry on the 1st with some sunny intervals, although cloud and rain edging west into the south-east. Still cloudy with rain in the east on the 2nd, but this tending to die out. The west had a dry day with sunny spells, although with a moderate northerly wind and some strong gusts. Mostly cloudy in the east on the 3rd with some light rain or drizzle in places, along with some hill fog. The west had a dry day on the 4th with some sunny intervals. Another generally cloudy and misty day on the 5th, with some patchy rain and hill fog. The 6th started the same, still cloudy and damp, although a few brighter intervals did develop for a time in some parts of the west. It turned cloudy with some hill fog again in the evening.

7th to 9th: A much brighter start everywhere on the 7th with sunshine and scattered showers. These showers continued into the evening with the south to south-west winds increasing to gale force in places. A band of heavy rain moved up from the south-west on the 8th. Drier, brighter and showery conditions followed from the west during the day. Further rain reached the west during the evening. Squally winds on the 8th gave a gust of 77 m.p.h. at Aberdaron (Gwynedd). Heavy rain cleared away eastwards early on the 9th, but with plenty of heavy showers, some with thunder, following from the west. Llandeilo (Carmarthenshire) recorded 47.8 mm on the 9th. Very windy with severe gale-force south-westerly winds developing, with Pembrey Sands (Carmarthenshire) recording a gust of 78 m.p.h.

10th to 13th: Some heavy rain at first on the 10th, followed by brighter weather with heavy showers. It was still quite mild, despite the winds continuing at strong to gale force at first, these slowly easing later. Bands of heavy showers moved down from the north-west during the first part of the 11th, but these moved away south-eastwards through the afternoon, with fresh to strong north-west winds. There were further showers on the 12th, these persisting into the afternoon, although southern and eastern areas stayed largely dry. On the 13th some outbreaks of rain spread east across western areas, with some heavier bursts in places.

14th to 17th: Rather cloudy and mild throughout this period. Although it was dry at times in the east and north there were outbreaks of drizzle over many western hills, and occasionally elsewhere. Hawarden Airport (Flintshire) had a very mild day on the 14th with a maximum of 16.0 °C. A band of heavier rain spread in from the west during the 17th, chiefly affecting western hills and coasts.

18th to 20th: Cloudy with some light rain on the 18th, this moving away to give some afternoon sunshine. Mostly dry but rather cloudy on the 19th, although again some light rain or drizzle in the west. A weak southward moving cold front gave patchy rain during the morning of the 20th, this followed by sunshine and rather frequent showers in the afternoon.

21st to 23rd: Further sunshine and scattered showers on the 21st, the north to north-westerly winds progressively bringing colder conditions southwards across the east during the day. It remained cloudy during

the 22nd and at first on the 23rd. Showers on the 23rd becoming quite widespread and locally thundery.

24th to 30th: It remained cold during the last week of the month with some heavy rain and showers on the 24th but mostly dry on the 25th. A scattering of showers on the 26th, some rain on the 27th and then showers again on the 28th and 29th. The 30th was mostly dry. Sennybridge (Powys) recorded a maximum temperature of -0.9 °C on the 29th and Trawsgoed recorded a minimum temperature of -5.3 °C on the 30th.

Scotland diary of highlights

Mean temperatures and sunshine above average and rainfall slightly below average..

1st to 8th: Rain across the north-west, otherwise the 1st was bright. Bright with evening frost on the 2nd, with rain spreading into the north-west later. Rain fizzled out in the north-west on the 3rd, with fog in the central belt clearing late morning but returning later. An early frost, with Aboyne (Aberdeenshire) recording a minimum temperature of -6.4 °C on the 3rd. Mainly dry and bright on the 4th but with lingering fog in the north-east. The 5th was cloudy and drizzly in the east, but it was brighter in the north-west. The 6th was cloudy, with some rain or drizzle. The 7th and 8th were mostly cloudy with rain or showers, some heavy.

9th to 19th: Cold on the 9th with occasional showers. Showers merged into longer spells of rain in the west on the 10th. South-west winds were strong to severe gale force at times over western coasts and islands, with South Uist Range (Western Isles) recording a gust of 68 m.p.h. Showery on the 11th and 12th. More rain across the west later on the 12th, this rain persisted through the 13th and 14th, with the Highland area recording notable 48-hour rainfall totals, with Cassley recording 80.8 mm and Achfary recording 105.7 mm. Brighter at times in the south and east, with Aboyne recording a maximum temperature of 15.6 °C on the 14th. Rain cleared southwards late on the 14th and early 15th leaving sunny or clear spells and showers, these wintry on hills. Windy with gales across the north, with Sella Ness (Shetland) recording a gust of 64 m.p.h. The 16th was sunny but with some showers and strong winds at first in the far north-east. Widespread frost early on the 17th, but cloud and rain pushed north and east. Some patchy light rain or drizzle affected the north and west on the 18th, but dry elsewhere with some sunshine in the east. The 19th was mild and windy with some heavy rain over the north-west Highlands but dry elsewhere.

20th to 24th: Showers affected the north on the 20th, the showers turning wintry over the Northern Isles later. Northerly winds strengthened on the 21st bringing frequent snow showers to the north and east coasts, with a gust of 69 m.p.h. recorded at Rosehearty (Aberdeenshire). Lerwick (Shetland) recorded a maximum temperature of just 0.2 °C on the 21st. Snow showers continued overnight and into the 22nd with 0900 UTC values on the 22nd of 13 cm at Balmoral and Craibstone (both Aberdeenshire) and 8 cm at Fair Isle. The south-west was mainly dry and bright. A band of snow spread east overnight bringing slight to moderate falls mainly in the north and east. Wintry showers on the 23rd, with gales developing on the west coast, with Port Ellen (Islay) recording a gust of 64 m.p.h. Craibstone reported 15 cm of lying snow at 0900 UTC on the 23rd. Sunny or clear spells and showers on the 24th, most frequent, heaviest and occasionally wintry in the north-east, with gales in the west easing.

25th to 26th: Clear at first in the south and east on the 25th with frost. Cloud thickening from the west, with patchy rain and drizzle developing. Temperatures steadily rising. The west was mostly cloudy on the 26th with patchy rain and drizzle. The east remained dry with sunny or clear spells.

27th to 30th: On the 27th, early morning rain was followed by a brighter but colder day with showers in the west falling as snow on the hills. Wintry showers continued in the west and north on the 28th and 29th and 30th, with some freezing fog. Braemar (Aberdeenshire) recorded a maximum temperature of -2.6 °C on the 29th and a minimum temperature of -12.1 °C on the 30th.

Northern Ireland diary of highlights

Mean temperatures above average, but with below average rainfall and sunshine.

1st to 8th: Frost early and late away from the north coast, otherwise bright on the 1st. Similar on the 2nd, but less frosty during the evening. Helens Bay (County Down) recorded a maximum temperature of 12.1 °C on the 2nd. Some frost and patchy fog on the 3rd, but this was followed by a dry and bright day. The 4th was a rather cloudy day. The 5th and 6th were cloudy with patchy rain. The 7th was rather cloudy with rain, becoming heavier in the evening. A band of heavy rain moved east on the 8th bringing short-lived squally downpours to some areas.

9th to 12th: Showery from the 9th to 11th with the showers occasionally merging into longer spells of rain. Winds strong at times with gales in exposed places. Bright or sunny spells with persistent rain into the north-west later on the 12th.

13th to 20th: The 13th to 15th were cloudy with rain at times, but some dry and bright conditions too. Ballykelly (County Londonderry) recorded a maximum temperature of 14.7 °C on the 14th. The 16th was dry with some sunshine and light winds. The 17th was cloudy with outbreaks of rain. Mainly dry and continuing mild on the 18th, 19th and 20th. Peatlands (County Armagh) recorded a maximum temperature of 12.9 °C on the 20th.

21st to 26th: The 21st and 22nd were rather cloudy with showers and a few bright spells. The 23rd was brighter and cooler with blustery showers, some with hail and thunder in the north. Winds strong with gales, locally severe near northern coasts, with Orlock Head (County Down) recording a highest gust of 60 m.p.h. Locally heavy rain at first on the 24th then sunny with easing northerly winds and evening showers. Frost early on the 25th, but becoming mostly cloudy with patchy rain or drizzle later. Cloudy but mainly dry on the 26th, although a little patchy rain and drizzle. Becoming milder, with Ballykelly recording a maximum temperature of 11.3 °C on the 26th.

27th to 30th: On the 27th, early morning rain was followed by brighter conditions and a scattering of showers. A few showers continued on the 28th and 29th especially in the west and north. More showers for the 30th. A cold end to the month, particularly in terms of maximum temperatures on the 29th, with Edenfel (County Tyrone) recording -0.1 °C and Aldergrove (County Antrim) recording 1.2 °C. Also frosty nights during this period, with Castlederg (County Tyrone) recording a minimum temperature of -4.3 °C on the 29th.

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